

Docket No. 648.46078X00

Serial No. 10/578,845

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CENTRAL FAX CENTERAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently amended) The method for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons according to claim 64, characterized in that the solvent in which the sample is dissolved is an alcohol; one of the plurality of eluents comprises dichloromethane; and an eluent lower in polarity than dichloromethane comprises any one of n-hexane, carbon tetrachloride and toluene.

3. (Currently amended) The method for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons according to claim 64, characterized in that the column is a silica gel column.

4. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, characterized in that the apparatus comprises a column packed with a packing for normal phase chromatography; a solvent feeder of feeding to the column eluents to be a mobile phase for the test solution and to differ in polarity from each other; and a fractionation device of separating the solution according to the type and concentration of the solvent in the solvent feeder.

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5. (Previously presented) The method for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons according to claim 2, characterized in that the column is a silica gel column.

6. (New) A method for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons using a test solution in which a sample containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons is dissolved in a solvent, a plurality of eluents to be a mobile phase for the test solution and different from the solvent and different in polarity from each other, and a column packed with a packing material, wherein the method comprises:

supplying a first eluent to the column and eluting contaminants in the test solution;

mixing gradually a second eluent which is higher in polarity than the first eluent while reducing flow of the first eluent;

starting fractionating eluted solution when concentration of the second eluent with respect to the first eluent reaches a predetermined concentration; and

separating the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.